

April, the bird we observed was most likely on passage.

As far as we have been able to ascertain, this individual is the first record for Rajasthan. The Asian Brown Flycatcher is not recorded from Rajasthan (Ali and Ripley 1996, Grimmett *et al.* 1998). A record from central Rajasthan (Kazmierczak and van Perlo 2000) can be discounted as there is no basis to believe the species to be a summer visitor. If the species occurs in

Rajasthan, it is most likely a rare passage migrant

August 9, 2001

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17. NEW SIGHT RECORDS OF PIED TIT *PARUS NUCHALIS* IN RAJASTHAN

The pied tit *Parus nuchalis* is endemic in India, confined to Rajasthan and Gujarat (Adam 1873, Ali and Ripley 1987, Hussain *et al.* 1992, Tiwari and Rahmani 1996, Tiwari 2001). According to Tiwari (2001), it is distributed in seven districts of Rajasthan, namely Pali, Jodhpur, Jalor, Sirohi, Ajmer, Jaipur and Nagaur.

While surveying the biodiversity of protected areas (PAs) and other regions of mega-biodiversity in Rajasthan State, I came across this endemic bird thrice in two more districts of Rajasthan (Table 1).

Table 1: Pied Tit sightings in Rajasthan

Date	Number of birds observed	Locality	District
27.vii.2000	2	Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary, on the way to Sajjangarh Fort	Udaipur
1.vii.2001	2	Forest Range Campus, Deola	Udaipur
2.viii.2001	1	Ruliyana village (between Bay and Danta villages)	Sikar

Sajjangarh Sanctuary has dry deciduous forests, with thorny and other shrubs like *Anogeissus pendula*, *Acacia nilotica*, *A. leucophloea*, *A. senegal*, *Dichrostachys cinerea* and *Euphorbia caducifolia* in the foothill zone and middle slopes. *Boswellia serrata* and *Lannea coromandelica* are common tree species in the upper reaches of the Sanctuary.

Deola is a small village situated at the northwestern outskirts of Phulwari Wildlife Sanctuary in Kotra tehsil, Udaipur district. There are dense forest patches in Kotra tehsil, but the environs of Deola village are highly degraded. Thorny species are not very common in this area, except *Anona squamosa* and *Jatropha curcas*.

The pied tit has also been observed by Raza Tehsil (pers. comm.) in Jamunia-ki-Nal, near Udaipur city. This is a moist valley with a semi-perennial stream. The adjacent hills bear thorny forests.

Ruliyana village is very near Harshnath hill, the highest point in Sikar district. This area is surrounded by many protected forest blocks, namely Deogarh, Rewasa-Jheen Mata, Bhoya-Dungri, and Raghunathgarh, which have thorny dry deciduous and scrub forests. *Anogeissus pendula*, *Acacia nilotica*, *A. leucophloea*, *A. senegal*, and *Euphorbia caducifolia* are common here. *Prosopis juliflora* and *Acacia tortilis* are also present at many places, especially near the foothills.

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April 2, 2002

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18. ADDITIONS TO 'THE BIRDS OF GOA' (LAINER 1999)

In 'The Birds of Goa' (Lainer 1999a, b), records up to July 1997 were incorporated. The present note includes all 'new sightings' made since then (up to July 12, 2001) and corrects two inadvertent omissions. All observations, if not attributed otherwise, are by the author. For easy reference and in continuance of the original paper, the number in brackets after the serial number refers to the 'Synopsis number' as used by Ali and Ripley (1995). The common and scientific names follow Manakadan and Pittie (2001). Unconfirmed records of birds that are difficult to identify in the field are appended.

ADDITIONS TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

383. (9) **Wedge-tailed Shearwater**
Puffinus pacificus (Gmelin)

During one of my regular seabird watches, I observed a single pale morph specimen skimming low over the waves almost a kilometre off the coast of Anjuna (Bardez) on September 20, 1998. Another pale morph was spotted c. 300 m offshore in perfect viewing conditions on July 12, 2001. Both birds were moving purposefully in a southerly direction.

384. (73) **Greater Flamingo**
Phoenicopterus ruber Linnaeus

Frost, Manville and the author observed a single bird in a saline lagoon on Divar (Tiswadi), a large island in the inland-estuary of the Mandovi river, on November 3 and 4, 2000.

385. (155/156) **Common Buzzard**
Buteo buteo Linnaeus

Apparently a scarce, but regular winter visitor. There are dozens of records by reliable British, Dutch and Scandinavian bird watchers, in whose countries the Common Buzzard is a common sight. Pitt (1995) observed the first specimen at Baga (Bardez) in December 1994. I have seen single birds on three occasions in March and October, 1998. The Common

Buzzard seems to favour the coastal belt, though there are two records from the midland plateau region and one from the Western Ghats strip.

386. (171) **Lesser Spotted Eagle**
Aquila pomarina Brehm

A near adult specimen of this raptor was seen in November and December 1998 in the Neura wetlands (Tiswadi). Six immature birds were recorded from wetlands of the North Goa coastal belt, in October and November 1999 by Frost and this author. There are numerous sightings of doubtful value by visiting British and Scandinavian birders, nearly all from the coastal belt.

387. (220) **Amur Falcon**
Falco amurensis Radde

Earlier known as the Red-legged Falcon *F. vespertinus amurensis*, the first sighting was of an adult male specimen at the coastal Dona Paula plateau (Tiswadi), in November 1997 (Lynes 1999). Since then, males, females and juveniles have been recorded by various observers and this author at Terakol (Pernem), Baga, Saligao, Fort Aguada (Bardez); Chorao, Carambolim and Corlim (Tiswadi), every year between November 8 and December 3.

388. (313) **Small Buttonquail**
Turnix sylvatica (Desfontaines)

On December 9, 1998, a single bird was observed foraging under bushes on a grassy, lateritic plateau between Arpora, Parra and Verla-Canca (Bardez), hardly 3 km from the coast (Frost pers. comm.).

389. (437) **Great Stone Plover**
Esacus recurvirostris (Cuvier)

Two birds were seen by Frost, Manville and the author in flooded fallow paddy fields on Divar, on October 8, 1998 and a single bird on January 17, 2001 in a prawn farm on Chorao, both riverine islands in the inland-estuary of the Mandovi.